

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0027] The NO_x storage material may be supported by the lower layer according to a known method. For example, the NO_x storage material may be supported by the lower layer in a method in which the base material is impregnated with a salt solution, for example, a ~~patassium~~potassium nitrate solution, and the base material impregnated with the salt solution is dried and baked. Also, the lower layer may be formed of particles supporting the NO_x storage material in advance. An amount of NO_x storage material supported by the lower layer may be an arbitrary value. Preferably, the concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the lower layer is higher than the concentration of the NO_x storage material which is supported by the catalyst supporting layer by 10wt% or more. More preferably, the concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the lower layer is higher than the concentration of the NO_x storage material which is supported by the catalyst supporting layer by 50wt% or more. Further more preferably, the concentration of the NO_x storage material supported by the lower layer is higher than the concentration of the NO_x storage material which is supported by the catalyst supporting layer by 100wt% or more.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0034] Then, Pt was supported by the catalyst supporting layer in a method in which the base material having the catalyst supporting layer was immersed in a dinitrodiammine platinum nitric acid solution, taken out from the solution, and baked for two hours at a temperature of 350 °C. The amount of Pt supported by the catalyst supporting layer was 1 gram per one liter of base material. Next, ~~potassium~~potassium was supported by the base material in a method in which the base material was impregnated with a predetermined amount of ~~patassium~~potassium nitrate solution having a predetermined concentration, dried for 20

minutes at a temperature of 250 °C, and baked for two hours at a temperature of 350 °C. The amount of potassium supported by the base material was 0.3 mol per one liter of base material. The thus obtained catalyst is the catalyst in the embodiment.

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0036] A durability test for each of the catalyst in the embodiment and the catalyst in the comparative example was performed for 50 hours at a temperature of 650 °C. While the durability test was performed, a rich gas and a lean gas, each of which ~~contains~~contains components shown in a table 1, were alternatively circulated every five minutes. After the durability test was finished, the lean gas was circulated in the catalyst such that the catalyst stores NO_x, the rich gas was circulated in the catalyst for 20 seconds, and then the lean gas was circulated in the catalyst, whereby the NO_x reduction rate during 60 seconds was measured. A space velocity was maintained at 50000/h. The result of the measurement is shown in FIG. 3.